Environmental Operating Principles: The Tribal Perspective

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Environmental Operating Principles

- Because survival depends upon sustained and balanced ecosystems, environmental concerns are becoming an increasingly important part of all U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' missions, decision-making, programs, and projects.

Environmental Operating Principles

- **“We must obey the laws of nature and work in harmony with the natural forces rather than against them. Man cannot dominate these forces, but by working in harmony with them, he can preserve the heritage of future generations.”**
  - **- Lt. Gen. Samuel D. Sturgis, Jr.**
  - **U.S. Army Corps Chief of Engineers, 1953**

Values and Dr. Massey

- What you are is where you were when…
- How value systems are formed.
- How prejudices are formed.
- Massey investigates the role of the past in developing a value system. **These gut-level feelings guide our adult behavior, determine our worldview, and influence how we feel about what is normal and abnormal.**

Aboriginal Values

- “Walking with the Caveman”
- Stone Tools
- Environmental values are intrinsic; We just need to awaken them.
- “Awake 1: To become fully aware or cognizant.”

Values

- **"The white man does not understand America. He is too far removed from its formative processes. The roots of the tree of his life have not yet grasped the rock and the soil."**
- **Chief Luther Standing Bear**
- **Oglala Sioux (1868-1939)**

Indian Lake Recreation Area

Walla Walla GI Study

- **$5.2 Million Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Study**
- **Cost Shared with The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation**
- **The opportunity exists to improve conditions for endangered fish species**

The Wisdom of Native Americans

"We're the saviors of this earth, I feel. And it's something we want to leave there for seven generations, maybe 14 generations from now. It's something that we all have to learn, or we'll all perish from this earth. Kat-si-yow-yow. Thank you. ."

--Carl D. Sampson

Chief, Wallulapum Band of the Walla Wallas

Goals of Native American Training

- The insights offered by the tribal members will help the Corps understand Native American values as they relate to cultural and natural resources in a way that will help us be better public servants

Learning Objectives of Native American Training

- Obtain the non-scientific, non-technical skills and gain an understanding and set of values necessary to make sustainable decisions around environmental, tribal, and cultural resource issues.
- Training teaches participants how to deal with people. It is learning by experiencing and listening to stakeholders.

Learning Objectives of Native American Training

- Training teaches the principle of “place” and the “importance of place”; it teaches people to respect and value a place.
- -The training provides experience in how to recognize a cultural site through the flint napping and other hands on activities that are conducted in natural settings consistent with indigenous practices.

Learning Objectives of Native American Training

- Teambuilding exercise. Students will learn to work together, sharing the gifts they each bring to the training. It is believed in the Indian world that every one has a gift or talent to share with the tribe and the combination of these talents makes the tribe stronger. It is a great teambuilding lesson.

Native American Training

- Lynda Walker – Portland District – (503)808-3715
- May 3-6, 2004
- $1350 per person (includes meals and lodging)